**प्रजनन केन्द्रों में घड़ियालों की संख्या**

841. **श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल :** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि प्रजनन केन्द्रों में पाले जा रहे घड़ियालों की संख्या 5000 से भी ज्यादा हो गयी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार उन्हें देश की नदियों में छोड़ने का विचार कर रही है ताकि इससे प्रदूषित नदियों के जल को स्वच्छ करने में मदद मिल सके ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

**पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) :** (क) जी हां ।

(ख) और (घ) विभिन्न सरकारें मगर-मच्छों का प्रजनन इन प्रजातियों के जंगल में पुनर्वास के लिए स्टाक की अपनी आवश्यकता को पूरा करने के लिए कराती हैं । राज्य सरकारें इन्हें नदियों में छोड़ देती है । लेकिन यह मंत्रालय विभिन्न राज्यों द्वारा अपनी नदियों में छोड़ी गई प्रजातियों की संख्या के बारे में आँकड़ों का संकलन-तुलना नहीं करता है । इस तथ्य को सभी मानते हैं कि मगरमच्छ (मगर और घड़ियाल) नदी पारि-प्रणाली का एक अभिन्न अंग हैं ।

**Enviroiunental Degradation of Himalayas**

842. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to develop a comprehensive plan to arrest environmental degradation of Himalayas ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government are aware of an integrated programme charted out by eminent intellectual and environmentalists known as "Blueprint" for the Survival of the Himalayas ; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The Govt, have set up G.B. Pant Himalaya Paryavaran Evam Vikas Sansthan (G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development) as an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Govt, of India to enhance the knowledge of evolving effective strategies for management of natural resources and sustainable development in the Indian Himalaya. The Institute has been asked to prepare an Action Plan which should comprehensively project various environment and development related problems and actions to mitigate them. An Expert Group has also been set up by the Planning Commission to formulate a National Policy on the Himalaya for integrated development taking into consideration the ecological and environmental factors, resource availability and socioeconomic character of the region.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Ban on Smoking**

843. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in a recent study the International Labour Organisation has suggested the adopting of policies to restrict or ban smoking at the workplace ;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ; and

(c) whether Government would consider the International Labour Organisation's

suggestion to combat smoking at work-place and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No report on any study made by the International Labour Organisation, suggesting the adoption of policies to restrict or ban smoking at work-places, has come to the notice of the Government. Howevdr, an article entitled "Battle joined against smoking on the job" in the ILO information (No. 1, 1992) has reported how current public opinion is turning in favour of restricting or banning smoking at the workplace. This is not an official record of the International Labour Organisation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Environment Tax in India**

844. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce Environment Tax in India ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what is the stance of Government towards the United Nations financing of the Global Environment Protection Projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Docs not arise.

(c) Government of India is of the vie' that adequate, new and additional financiA resources should be provided to the deve loping countries for environment protectio projects.

**Migratory Biros in India**

845. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS he pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of migratory birds in India has decreascc over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the names of such resorts in India where the birds usually migrate and from where ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Among the migratory Birds visiting India, only the number of visiting Siberian cranes has been reported to be decreasing, from more than 200 in 1960 to 38 in 1987 and to 10 in 1991.

(c) Every year a large number of migratory birds visit India for wintering from Iran, Afghanistan, China, Russia, Poland and other countries of the trans-Himalayan palaearctic region. A list of important wetlands in India used by these birds for wintering is given in the Statement annexed.

**Statement**

*List of Important Wetlands used as Wintering areas by Migratory Water Fowl*

| S. No. | Name of Wetland | State | District |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | Pangong Tso . . . . . | J & K | Ladakh |
| 2 | Chushul marshes . . . . . | J & K | Ladakh |
| 3 | Hanle River marshes . . . . . | J & K | Leh, Ladakh |
| 4 | Tso Morari . . . . . | J & K | Ladakh |